



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner
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4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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June 9, 2021

Re: Joint Application of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
and Wisconsin Electric Power Company for Authority to
Construct the Weston Reciprocating Internal Combustion
Engine Project in the Villages of Rothschild and
Kronenwetter, Marathon County, Wisconsin

5-CE-153

To the Person Addressed:

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) and Wisconsin Electric Power Company (together - Applicants) filed an application with the Public Service Commission (Commission) on April 16, 2021, seeking permission to construct a new natural gas electric generation facility. The proposed project would be located at the existing Weston Generating Station on land owned by WPSC, located in the Villages of Rothschild and Kronenwetter near Wausau, Wisconsin.

Commission staff is writing to inform landowners within one-half mile of the proposed project that the Commission will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. Commission staff is also sending this notification letter to places where the public will see it posted and public officials in the project area. If you are a county or municipal clerk, please post this announcement publicly. The Commission encourages persons with local information or environmental concerns to submit comments on the proposed project to the Commission.

The deadline for submitting environmental review scoping comments is June 25, 2021.

Comments on the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) can be submitted through:

- The Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>; then click "file a comment" on the bottom left hand side of the page, then locate docket 5-CE-153, or
- A letter or email addressed to the environmental assessment contact for the docket (see contacts at the end of this letter).

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Effective topics to mention in comments on the scope of the EA include:

- Any potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, or
- Any specific actions or changes to the proposed project that might minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

Project Description

The proposed project would construct a natural gas electric generating facility with a capacity of approximately 128 megawatts (MW) at a cost of \$171,400,000. The power would be generated

by installation and operation of seven reciprocating internal combustion engine (RICE) generators. Each RICE generator will have nominal capacity of 18.8 MW. The proposed project would construct either a new 1,800 foot or 5,000 foot natural gas pipeline on utility-owned property to connect to existing natural gas facilities for fuel supply. The proposed project would connect to an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line currently located at the Weston Generating Station. The proposed project would be cooled by a closed-loop cooling water system that uses radiators with fans, and would not have an exhaust stack. Water would be supplied through the Village of Kronenwetter municipal water supply system. Oil-contaminated wastewater from the operation of the project would be collected and removed for treatment by a third-party-contractor. No ash byproducts that would require solid waste disposal would be generated by the operation of the natural gas facilities. If authorized, the project is planned to be constructed from 2022 to 2023.

Project Location

The Applicants provided two potential locations for the proposed project facility, labeled as ‘primary’ and ‘alternate’ in the application materials. Both potential locations are on the Weston Generating Station property owned by WPSC. The Weston Generating Station is located on a 450-acre parcel in the Village of Kronenwetter in Marathon County, approximately seven miles south of Wausau. This property is located east of the Wisconsin River and west of Interstate 39/State Highway 51. A map showing the two potential project facility locations and surrounding area is attached to this letter. An interactive map of the project area can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/WestonRICE>.

Project Review

Before construction may begin, the Commission must grant the Applicants a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the project under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3). Commission staff is reviewing the stated need for the project, the project’s potential engineering impacts and costs, and the project’s potential environmental impacts. The Commission must hold a hearing before granting a CPCN. The Commission will distribute a public notice at least 30 days prior to the hearing to announce the hearing time and location. The record of the hearing will inform the three Commissioners’ decisions about whether to approve, modify, or deny the proposal. The Commission will provide an opportunity for any member of the public or government official to comment and offer an opinion on this project either in writing or in person at the public hearing. If the project is approved, the Commission will decide upon any conditions or modifications.

This is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2) as a result of the type of electric generation facilities proposed to be constructed. The Commission is seeking comments on the environmental aspects of this proposal to assist in the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). The information gained through the EA process will determine whether the proposed project warrants preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project, and the public hearing

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comment period. Notification for the preliminary determination comment period will be sent to the mailing list for this project, and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Case Coordinator for this project, Dan Grant, at daniel.grant@wisconsin.gov. For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our [public participation page](#).

For more information or to review project application materials and additional related documents, refer to the following:

- Go to the PSC website (<http://psc.wi.gov>) and select the “E-Services” tab, then docket search number 5-CE-153.
- Contact the Environmental Analyst for this project:
Stacy Schumacher
stacy.schumacher@wisconsin.gov
(608) 267-2547
Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854

The Applicants must obtain certain permits, particularly related to air and water resources, from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR staff will co-author the environmental assessment. Questions about DNR air and water permits can be addressed to Geri Radermacher of the DNR Office of Energy by e-mail at geri.radermacher@wisconsin.gov.

Public Service Commission Contact for Media

Members of the media are urged to contact Jerel Ballard, Communications Director, before contacting any Commission staff associated with this project. Mr. Ballard can be reached at (608) 267-3871 or jerel.ballard@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stacy Schumacher

Stacy Schumacher
Environmental Analyst
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

STS:kls DL:01803652

Attachment: Proposed Project Map

Weston RICE Project 5-CE-153

